

Art 19
(Amended under PCT Article 19)

CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A packing device for plate-like articles, comprising:

, 5 a base frame (20);

a pair of rear pillars (31, 31) upwardly disposed at rear both sides of the base frame (20) so that the plate-like articles (G) to be packed are leaned against the rear pillars in a rearwardly leaned posture;

10 a pair of front pillars (41, 41) upwardly disposed at front both sides of the base frame (20); and

a pressing device (50) for pressing the plate-like articles (G) disposed on the base frame (20) toward the rear pillars (31, 31) with the plate-like articles leaned against the rear pillars 15 (31, 31),

wherein the pressing device (50) has a pair of pressing members (60, 60) to be disposed along front both sides of the plate-like article (G) so as to be faced to the pair of front pillars (41, 41), a pair of locking members (70, 80) to be disposed between 20 the pair of pressing members (60, 60) and the pair of front pillars (41, 41), and guide members (71, 81) for guiding the locking members (70, 80) in an up-and-down direction along the front pillars (41),

25 wherein the pair of pressing members (60) have groove shaped pressing plates (61) to be disposed along an up-and-down direction with its opened groove direction faced to the front pillar, and the locking members (70) are slidably inserted in grooves (61a)

of the pressing plates (61),

wherein in a state in which the plate-like articles (G) are disposed on the base frame (20) with the plate-like article leaned against the rear pillars (31), the locking members (70) (80) each disposed between the front pillar (41) and the pressing member (60) are pressed downwardly along the front pillar (41) to be disposed between the front pillar (40) and the pressing member (60) with the locking member engaged therebetween, whereby the pressing members (60) press a front surface of the plate-like article.

2. The packing device for plate-like articles as recited in claim 1, wherein the guide member (71, 81) is constituted by a U-shaped groove portion (74, 78) provided at the locking member (70, 80) and opened to a front pillar side, and

wherein the U-shaped groove portion (74, 84) is slidably fitted in the front pillar (41) along the longitudinal direction thereof, whereby the locking member (70, 80) are slidably guided by the front pillar (41).

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3. (Deleted)

4. (Added) The packing device for plate-like articles as recited in claim 1, wherein the locking member (70, 80) is constituted so as to be detachably attached to the pressing member (60).

Statement under Article 19(1) of PCT

Claim 1 has been amended by adding the features of claim 3 so as to clarify that the locking members (70, 80) for pressing the front surface of the plate-like members (G) via the pressing member (60) are slidable in an up-and-down direction between the pressing member (60) and the front pillar (41).

Cited reference 1 (Japanese Unexamined Laid-open Patent Publication No. H7-267290) discloses a pressing member (5) for pressing the front side of glass plates (G), a slider (17) slidably provided to a front frame (4) in an up-and-down direction, and a link (14) connecting the pressing member (5) and the slider (17). The slider (17) of the cited reference 1 merely slides in the up-and-down direction, and does not press the pressing member (5). To the contrary, the locking members (70, 80) of the present claim 1 can slide in an up-and-down direction, and press the pressing member (60) toward the plate-like members (G).

Cited reference 2 (U.S. Patent No. 2,839,198) discloses a cover (30) disposed at the front side of laminated glass plates, a tubular member (24) disposed in front of the cover (30) and a wedge (31) to be wedged between the cover (30) and the tubular member (24). The wedge (31) of the cited reference 2 merely presses the cover (30) and does not slide. To the contrary, the locking members (70, 80) of the present claim 1 slide in an up-and-down direction, and the slide direction is also restricted by the guide members (71, 81), etc.

Cited reference 3 (U.S. Patent No. 5,379,904) discloses a member (186) disposed at the front portion of a rack (20), and a pressing member (30) slidably attached to the member (186) in an up-and-down direction. In the cited reference 3, by the pressing member (3), the sheets (62) stored in the rack (20) are directly pressed. To the contrary, in the present claim 1, by the locking members (70, 80) slidable in an up-and-down direction, the front side of the plate-like members (G) is pressed via the pressing member (60).